

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on September 28, 2005. Claims 37-45 are pending.

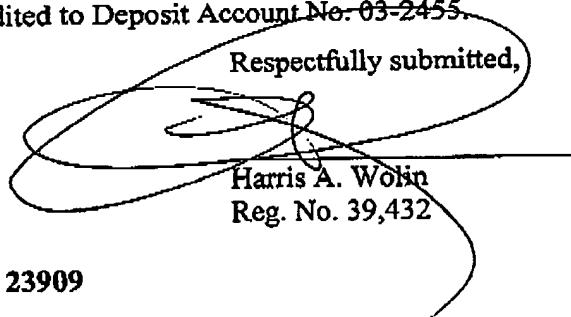
Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for her time in conducting an impromptu telephone interview on December 28, 2005.

Claims 37-42 and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kott (U.S. Patent 3,196,299) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158). Claims 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kott '299 in view of Braun et al. (U.S. Patent 6,553,604). Finally, claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kott '299 and Halm '158 in view of Braun '604. Responsive thereto, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 44 into claim 37. Applicant further notes that Halm '158 does not disclose Applicant's claim element "wherein each of said plurality of third cleaning/treating elements is movable independent of any other third cleaning/treating element," as Halm '158 discloses cleaning/treating elements on an elastomeric mat, such that movement of one third cleaning/treating element influences the movement of another third cleaning/treating element (see FIG. 4D of Halm '158). Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Halm '158 is not a valid reference to apply against the present claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 37-43 and 45, consisting of independent claim 37 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 03-2455. Any overpayment made be credited to Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,


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